



Miami-Dade County

Commission on Disability Issues (CODI) Minutes Memorandum

*Stephen P. Clark Center (SPCC) 111 N.W. 1st Street, Miami, Florida 33128
18th Floor, Conference Room 18-4*

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| | Date: | Wednesday, July 22, 2015 | |
| | Time: | 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m. | |
| | Call to Order Time: | 1:40 p.m. | |
| | Meeting Adjourned: | 4:01 p.m. | |
| I. | <u>Opening and Attendance:</u> Distributed Materials. Call to Order. Attendance recorded. | | |
| | District 1 Commissioner Jordan | Damian Gregory 1 st Vice Chair | Present |
| | District 2 Commissioner Monestime | Jackson David | Present |
| | District 3 Commissioner Edmonson | Jose Granda Access Committee Chair | Present |
| | District 4 Commissioner Heyman | Jesus Garcia Transportation & Aviation Committee Chair & 2 nd Vice Chair | Via speaker phone |
| | District 5 Commissioner Barreiro | Ernie Martinez CODI Chairman | Present |
| | District 6 Commissioner Sosa | Ora Prilleltensky | Present |
| | District 7 Commissioner Suarez | Harry Horgan Outreach Committee Chair | Excused Absence |
| | District 8 Commissioner Levine Cava | Elizabeth Merkling | Excused Absence |
| | District 9 Commissioner Moss | Ronald Fulton CODI Secretary | Present |

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| | District 10 Commissioner Souto | Russell Otway | Absent |
| | District 11 Commissioner Zapata | PENDING APPOINTMENT | |
| | District 12 Commissioner Diaz | Maria “Mercedes” Villar | Present |
| | District 13 Commissioner Bovo | Alan Rigerman | Excused Absence |
| | Miami-Dade County Staff Present Members of the Public: | Heidi Johnson-Wright, ISD ADA Coordinator Skarlex Alorda, ISD ADA CODI Support & Recording Secretary Rodney Moore, Elections Technical Training Specialist 2 Rick Fernandez, Aviation, Supervisor of Landside Operations & ADA Coordinator Deidre Gilbert, CAHSD Disability Services and Independent Living Program Rey Bonachea HLAA Miami Chapter Dr. Phillip Wright Author “Creative Writing” Farrah Sanchez Military Veteran | |
| II. | Approval of Agenda | Chairman Martinez requested a motion to approve the agenda. Mercedes Villar made the motion to approve, which was seconded by Damian Gregory. Motion passed unanimously. | |
| III. | Approval of Minutes | Chairman Martinez requested a motion to approve the June 24, 2015 CODI monthly meeting minutes. Motion made by Jesus Garcia and seconded by Ora Prilleltensky. Motion passed unanimously. | |
| IV. | Public Open Comments | <p>Mr. Rey Bonachea, President of the Miami Chapter of Hearing Loss Association of America, distributed a video titled “Confronting Hearing Loss” for CODI members to share with their commissioners.</p> <p>Dr. Phillip Wright Sr. said that he has scoliosis, which limits his ability to sit. Consequently, he must sit in the front seat of STS vehicles. He proposed that STS clients with this need be assigned a unique code. Jesus Garcia said that, due to abuse by riders, STS will no longer have front seat assignments. He suggested</p> | |

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| | | <p>that Dr. Wright seek designation as a wheelchair user.</p> <p>Ms. Prilleltensky suggested this issue be moved to committee. Mr. Gregory and Chairman Martinez agreed that this issue should be moved to the Transportation & Aviation Committee.</p> <p>Ora Prilleltensky made reference to an email from Matthew Dietz, Director of Litigation for Disability Independence Group regarding deaf correctional inmates receiving sign language interpreters. Mr. Gregory asked Ms. Johnson-Wright if she was aware of this issue. Ms. Johnson-Wright responded that she is aware of Mr. Dietz's public records request.</p> <p>Chairman Martinez clarified for Ms. Prilleltensky that CODI does not handle ADA grievances or complaints, which are handled by County staff. CODI members are appointed by their commissioners to be the eyes and ears of the disability community and to keep their commissioners informed.</p> <p>Chairman Martinez asked Ms. Graves about the law that governs requests for sign language interpreters. Ms. Graves said the ADA requires the County to provide effective communications with people with disabilities. This is why the County has a contract with a provider of sign language services.</p> <p>Mr. David said this issue came to CODI a long time ago. An employee of the County ASL services provider said they were never called to provide services at correctional facilities. Mr. David said some County Correctional staff attended that meeting but CODI did not follow up. Mr. David said if a department is not doing its job, CODI must follow up on it. Ms. Graves suggested CODI invite Corrections staff to a future meeting to explain the procedure for requesting an interpreter. Ms. Johnson-Wright said CODI did this very thing a year or two ago. CODI Access Committee Chairman Granda said that on Wednesday, September 16, 2015 at 1:30pm is the next CODI Access Committee meeting.</p> |
| V. | Information Items | <p>Elections - Poll Workers Training Manual</p> <p>Ms. Villar passed out a copy of the ADA Be Election Ready packet. Mr. Moore said he is the Election section manager over training and administrative positions. He attended a recent CODI meeting and handed out the poll workers training manual. Chairman Granda suggested making some changes to some of the disability-related portions of the training manual. Mr. Moore said he will share those changes with the Supervisor of Elections, and the changes will be made by the end of August.</p> <p>Mr. Garcia asked if the iVotronic machines have been replaced with machines that can be used independently by blind voters and which leave a paper trail?</p> |

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| | <p>Mr. Garcia said that the blind community was promised that this would happen by 2016. If not, federal court will be the next step. Mr. Moore reiterated that he will Elections Supervisor of Mr. Garcia’s concerns.</p> <p>Mr. Gregory asked Mr. Moore how disabled voters will be accommodated on Elections Day is there are long lines. Mr. Moore said that if there are voters that need accommodating, they will be provided with chairs.</p> <hr/> <p>ADA & Arts in September (Heidi Johnson-Wright)</p> <p>Ms. Johnson-Wright asked the CODI members how they wished to use their hour on the agenda of the Cultural Arts ADA Summit at the Adrienne Arsht Center on September 24, 2015. She suggested that, rather than presenting technical details about the ADA, CODI could tell the attendees why the ADA matters, especially in terms of access to the arts. Chairman Martinez said this is top priority. A discussion ensued.</p> <hr/> <p>Miami-Dade County Ordinance: Advisory Board Attendance</p> <p>Ms. Alorda read aloud Miami-Dade County Ordinance, Sec. 2-11.39, regarding attendance and absences of board members. Ms. Johnson-Wright said the issue is determining what is an excusable personal absence and what is a non-excusable personal absence. Many different absences could arguably be considered personal absences. The ADA Office needs guidance from CODI on this. CODI members should determine what falls in the category of excused personal absence. Ms. Prilleltensky suggested taking context in to consideration. Ms. Johnson-Wright said it’s CODI’s decision. Ms. Graves said that the county ordinance is written very broadly to provide such discretion to the board. A discussion ensued.</p> <p>Mr. Gregory said that no one is getting paid to serve on CODI. Everyone serves of their own free will. Mr. Gregory said that members must recognize that a balance is needed and that quorum must be met in order to conduct CODI business. Ms. Graves reiterated that the County Ordinance is written very broadly to provide such discretion for each board to define “personal” and “excusable.”</p> <p>Mr. Fulton made a motion: If a CODI member is absent due to a personal reason, he/she will ask fellow CODI members to determine if the absence should be considered unexcused or excused. Mr. Gregory seconded the motion. Motion passed.</p> <p>Mr. David did not concur with the motion. A discussion ensued. Chairman Martinez said this item can be revisited at CODI’s upcoming retreat.</p> |
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| | | <p>Mr. Fulton disagreed, saying this is not an issue appropriate to the retreat. Instead, it should be addressed at the next CODI Monthly meeting.</p> <hr/> <p>CODI Retreat</p> <p>Mr. Fulton presented a draft invitation letter to be sent to each of the 13 Commissioners inviting them to the retreat, as well as a draft retreat agenda for review. Ms. Johnson-Wright read aloud the invitation letter. A discussion ensued.</p> <p>The CODI Retreat is scheduled for October 27, 2015 from 1-4pm in Room 18-4 of the Stephen P. Clark Center. Chairman Martinez said Mr. Fulton is in charge of the retreat.</p> |
| VI. | Committee Assignments | <p>Transportation Datran Center Building</p> <p>Chairman Martinez asked if there are any updates on Datran building alterations and modifications on the sidewalks and the Busway Resolution. CODI Transportation & Aviation Committee Chairman Garcia said that the Busway item is coming up before the Board of County Commissioners for July 31st. An e-mail announcement was sent advising of such activity.</p> |
| VII. | Chairman Comments | <p>Chairman Martinez asked for an update regarding the CODI Sunshine meeting between Mr. Fulton and Ms. Prilleltensky held July 21st 2015 yesterday which was to discuss CODI planning retreat. Mr. Fulton replied it was to ask for assistance in planning the ice breaker for the retreat. Chairman Martinez requested minutes for the CODI Sunshine meeting of 7.21.15.</p> |
| VIII. | Adjourned | <p>Today's meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.</p> <p>The next CODI meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 30, 2015 from 1:30pm - 4:00 pm in Conference Room 18-4.</p> |